

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6427

UNCLAS TUNIS 4851

STATE FOR NEA/AFN

E.O.,11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, TS

SUBJ: WTDR ON TUNISAVIA, VOLUNTARY

1. ADDRESS: 35 RUE GAMEL ABDEL NASSER, TUNIS.

TELEX: CTAMA-TUNISAVIA 12451. PHONE: 256.850. OFFICERS:

MR. SLAHEDDINE FERCHIOU, PRESIDENT DIRECTOR GENERAL,

MR. JILANI BEMBAREK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL.

2. CORPORATION FORMED IN JULY 1974 AS SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL ENTERPRISE WITH PRIVATE PARTICIPATION. EMPLOYES 8. AIR TAXI SERVICE. ULTIMATELY DOMESTIC AIRLINE (SEE NO. 5 BELOW).

3. FINANCIAL REFERENCE: BANQUE NATIONALE DE TUNISIE, 19 AVENUE DE PARIS, TUNIS. TRADE REFERENCE: HELI-UNION, PARIS, FRANCE.

4. TUNISAVIA DOES NOT REPRESENT FIRMS.

5. TUNISAVIA WAS RECENTLY FORMED BY TUNIS AIR, THE NATIONAL AIRLINE, BANQUE NATIONALE DE TUNISIE, ONE OF THE MAJOR TUNISIAN BANKS, TOURIST AGENCIES, AN INSURANCE COMPANY AND FRENCH AND TUNISIAN PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN, TUNISAVIA NOW HAS TWO HELICOPTERS, AN ALOUETTE II AND AN ALOUETTE III, AND ONTLOUHSEATER "ISLANDER" BRITTEN NORMAN AA, OBTAINED ON CHARTER

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BASIS FROM THE FRENCH HELI-UNION COMPANY FOR TRANS-

PORTATION OF OIL COMPANIES PERSONNEL, OTHER BUSINESSMEN, TOURISTS OR GENERAL PUBLIC. THESE AIRCRAFT WILL BE TAKEN OVER FROM HELI-UNION BASE AT SFAX. IN ADDITION, TUNISAVIA INTENDS PURCHASE NEXT FALL ONE HELICOPTER OF 4 TO 12 SEAT CAPACITY AND TWO PLANES, ONE OF 8-9 SEAT AND OTHER 20-25 SEAT CAPACITY IN ORDER ESTABLISH, PROBABLY NEXT YEAR, REGULAR SCHEDULED FLIGHTS TO MONASTIR, SFAX, GABES, DJERBA AND GAFSA. WILL PROBABLY ALSO EXPAND CHARTER SERVICE. FIRM FINANCIALLY BACKED BY SHAREHOLDING BANKS. MR. SLAHEDDINE FERCHIOU, PRESIDENT, IS ALSO MANAGER OF AN INSURANCE COMPANY. MR. BEMBAREK, WHO WAS WITH TUNIS AIR AS CHIEF OF THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC STUDIES DEPARTMENT, STUDIED ENGINEERING AT THE FRENCH AERONAUTICAL SCHOOL. BOTH GENTLEMEN ARE YOUNG, DYNAMIC, AMBITIOUS, RELIABLE AND ABLE MANAGERS. TUNISAVIA IS RECOMMENDED AS A TRADE CONTACT FOR US FIRMS.

6. DATE INFO: 8/74.
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